

**CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM (CStP)
CONSERVATION ACTIVITY & EVALUATION TOOL (CAET) GUIDANCE
NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE (NRCS)**

Fiscal Year 2017-1 Range	
Soil Erosion	
Sheet and Rill Erosion	
Use Planning Criteria. An evaluation test question will be listed, but DO NOT answer it for this micro-resource concern. There is not a screening level for Kansas. Rangeland health assessment (RHA) on the worst field will be used to document this micro-resource concern. Winter feeding areas will be delineated as part of the farmstead.	
Wind Erosion	
Use Planning Criteria. An evaluation test question will be listed, but DO NOT answer it for this micro-resource concern. There is not a screening level for Kansas. RHA on the worst field will be used to document this micro-resource concern. Winter feeding areas will be delineated as part of the farmstead.	
Classic Gully Erosion	
Use Planning Criteria. An evaluation test question will be listed, but DO NOT answer it for this micro-resource concern. Classic gully erosion generally occurs in well-defined drainage ways and generally is not obliterated by tillage. In some situations, headcuts are present and aid in advancing the gully upstream. Field observation will be used to determine if classic gullies are present or not.	
Streambank, Shoreline, and Water Conveyance Channels	
Use Planning Criteria. An evaluation test question will be listed, but DO NOT answer it for this micro-resource concern. Adjacent is anything less than 100 feet. https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/nrcs144p2_042678.pdf	
Soil Quality Degradation	
Organic Matter Depletion	
Use Planning Criteria. An evaluation test question will be listed, but DO NOT answer it for this micro-resource concern. RHA will be used to document this micro-resource concern.	
Compaction	
Use Planning Criteria. An evaluation test question will be listed, but DO NOT answer it for this micro-resource concern. Observation of soil and/or plant condition will be used to determine if a compaction issue exists. Even though it isn't a client objective, there still might be a resource concern!! RHA will be used to document this micro-resource concern.	

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Concentration of Salts and other Chemicals	
Use Planning Criteria. An evaluation test question will be listed, but DO NOT answer it for this micro-resource concern.	
Water Quality Degradation	
Pesticides in Surface Water	
Use Planning Criteria. An evaluation test question will be listed, but DO NOT answer it for this micro-resource concern. WinPST will not need to be ran if the producer is spot spraying and following label directions.	
Pesticides in Ground Water	
Use Planning Criteria. An evaluation test question will be listed, but DO NOT answer it for this micro-resource concern. WinPST will not need to be ran if the producer is spot spraying and following label directions.	
Nutrients in Surface Water	
Use Planning Criteria. An evaluation test question will be listed, but DO NOT answer it for this micro-resource concern.	
Nutrients in Ground Water	
Use Planning Criteria. An evaluation test question will be listed, but DO NOT answer it for this micro-resource concern.	
Petroleum, Heavy Metal, and Other Pollutants Transported to Surface Water	
Use Planning Criteria. An evaluation test question will be listed, but DO NOT answer it for this micro-resource concern. The fuel storage area and tank must be located a minimum of 100 feet from any river, stream, ditch, pond, lake, sinkhole, wetland, or water well. Any tank over 660 gallons must be double-walled or have a secondary containment system.	
Petroleum, Heavy Metal, and Other Pollutants Transported to Ground Water	
Use Planning Criteria. An evaluation test question will be listed, but DO NOT answer it for this micro-resource concern. The fuel storage area and tank must be located a minimum of 100 feet from any river, stream, ditch, pond, lake, sinkhole, wetland, or water well. Any tank over 660 gallons must be double-walled or have a secondary containment system.	
Excessive Sediment in Surface Water	
Use Evaluation Test question: Plant cover controls active erosion (shallow <1 foot deep rill/gullies) and runoff from normal rain events. Litter and soil stay in place during normal rain events.	

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Air Quality Impacts	
Emissions of Particulate Matter (PM) and PM Precursors	
Use Evaluation Test questions: 1.) If prescribed burning is implemented, a prescribed burn plan has been developed and followed by competent, trained fire personnel. A Class III or above prescribed burn job approval authority will be required for NRCS personnel. 2.) If prescribed burning is employed, the smoke management objectives in the burn plan are followed. If prescribed burning is not implemented, answer these questions "YES".	
Emission of Greenhouse Gases (GHGs)	
Use Evaluation Test question: Forage Supply and Demand Balance is achieved. The forage supply and demand balance must be achieved on site.	
Degraded Plant Condition	
Undesirable Plant Productivity and Health	
Use Planning Criteria. An evaluation test question will be listed, but DO NOT answer it for this micro-resource concern. The Range Condition Score must be 65 or greater for Kansas.	
Inadequate Structure and Composition	
Use Planning Criteria. An evaluation test question will be listed, but DO NOT answer it for this micro-resource concern. The Range Condition Score must be 65 or greater for Kansas.	
Excessive Plant Pest Pressure	
Use Planning Criteria. An evaluation test question will be listed, but DO NOT answer it for this micro-resource concern.	
Wildfire Hazard, Excessive Biomass Accumulation	
Use Planning Criteria. An evaluation test question will be listed, but DO NOT answer it for this micro-resource concern.	

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Fish and Wildlife – Inadequate Habitat	
Inadequate Habitat - Food	
<p>Use Evaluation Test question: The plant cover provides cover and food for the chosen wildlife species. The Kansas State Wildlife Action Plan lists the species of greatest conservation need by ecoregion. The chosen declining species in Kansas for CStP are the Greater Prairie-Chicken, Lesser Prairie-Chicken, and Northern Bobwhite. Review Kansas Biology Technical Note KS-33 [Field Office Technical Guide (FOTG), Section IV, Conservation Practices, Upland Wildlife Habitat Management (645), Fact Sheet] for habitat requirements.</p>	
Inadequate Habitat – Cover/Shelter	
<p>Use Evaluation Test question: Plant growth and cover is managed to develop and maintain habitat for the benefit of wildlife species. The Kansas State Wildlife Action Plan lists the species of greatest conservation need by ecoregion. The chosen declining species in Kansas for CStP are the Greater Prairie-Chicken, Lesser Prairie-Chicken, and Northern Bobwhite. The producer must have implemented a wildlife habitat management plan. If the plan was developed by someone other than NRCS, the producer must bring it in to show us.</p>	
Inadequate Habitat – Habitat Continuity (Space)	
<p>Use Evaluation Test questions: 1.) Existing fences allow wildlife movement without harm. Fences have been modified to allow wildlife movement (placement to avoid high traffic areas, use smooth wire, fence markers, or adjusted wire spacing. 2.) Connectivity between food resources, cover, and shelter is provided for the chosen wildlife species. The Kansas State Wildlife Action Plan lists the species of greatest conservation need by ecoregion. The chosen declining species in Kansas for CStP are the Greater Prairie-Chicken, Lesser Prairie-Chicken, and Northern Bobwhite. Review Kansas Biology Technical Note KS-33 [FOTG, Section IV, Conservation Practices, Upland Wildlife Habitat Management (645), Fact Sheet] for habitat requirements.</p>	
Livestock Production Limitation	
Inadequate Feed and Forage	
<p>Use Evaluation Test question: Plant cover includes desired plants that are sufficient for the dietary needs and production goals of the livestock.</p>	
Inadequate Water	
<p>Use Planning Criteria. An evaluation test question will be listed, but DO NOT answer it for this micro-resource concern. Refer to Kansas Range Technical Note KS-10 for further guidance. https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/ks/people/employees/?cid=nrcseprd1289625</p>	